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Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church  
Stuyvesant Avenue  
Union, Union County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-539

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church  
Stuyvesant Avenue  
Union, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church  
of Connecticut Farms

Date of Erection: 1783

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One with gallery and tower

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brownstone

Exterior walls - brownstone  
on all elevations except  
the south which is brick,  
all elevations have red  
sandstone sills and lintels,  
frame gable ends and frame  
tower; brick parish house  
of later date attached to  
south elevation

Interior walls - plaster  
with wainscoting sill high,  
metal ceiling over old  
plaster ceiling

Outside brick chimney,  
originally inside

Roof - pitch

### Historical Data:

This section of Union County is known as Connecticut Farms because it was settled in 1667 by the Reverend Abraham Pierson with a group of families from Branford and Guilford, Connecticut. These early settlers had to travel to Elizabeth to worship; because of this about 1730 or probably earlier they organized a separate congregation and built a frame church.

On June 7, 1780 occurred the battle of Connecticut Farms with the Americans under General Maxwell and Colonel Dayton. The British were advancing to Springfield. At this time the Reverend Mr. Caldwell and his family were occupying the parsonage of this church. Reverend Caldwell was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth (NJ-21). He had brought his family to Connecticut Farms for safety; his wife and child were deliberately shot by an English soldier during this skirmish. When the British retreated from Springfield the church and village were burned; this occurred on June 23, 1780.

In 1783 we know the congregation was rebuilding their church, for on May 7 at a meeting of the presbytery at Morristown the congregation asked for assistance in erecting their church and parsonage. The present church is this stone structure; it was remodeled about 1923.

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